

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

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USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 /127 W

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R 151126Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8290

INFO /CINCPAC

USSAG NKP

13TH ADVON UDORN

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

UNCLAS BANGKOK 17849

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TH

SUBJECT: DAWEE ON THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN THAILAND

AIR CHIEF MARSHAL DAWEE CHULLASAPYA, MINISTER OF DEFENSE, HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 14. THE FOLLOWING ARE RELEVANT EXCERPTS OF AN INFORMAL USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS REMARKS ON THE U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN THAILAND. BEGIN EXCERPTS:

SINCE WE ARE TALKING ABOUT AMERICAN BASES, SOME PERSONS FEEL SUSPICIONS AS TO WHAT NECESSITY THERE IS FOR AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES TO BE STATIONED HERE AND WHETHER THEY WILL CONTINUE BEING STATIONED HERE THROUGHOUT THE FUTURE. I WISH TO EMPHASIZE TO YOU THAT WHETHER THEY CONTINUE REMAINING HERE OR WHETHER THEY ARE WITHDRAWN DEPENDS ON THE THAI GOVERNMENT AND ON THE THAI PEOPLE, THAT IT DOES NOT DEPEND ON WHETHER AMERICA WANTS THEM TO REMAIN AS LONG AS IT PLEASES.

FROM A POLITICAL ANGLE, WE DO NOT WANT TO SEE FOREIGN ARMED UNCLASSIFIED

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FORCES HERE IN THAILAND, BUT AT THE SAME TIME WE DO NOT WANT TO

SEE ARMED FORCES OF ANY NATION THAT IS AN ENEMY OF OURS PUT FORCES
ON
THAI SOIL. THE QUESTION WE MUST ASK OURSELVES IS: ARE WE IN
READINESS TO OPPOSE AN ENEMY SHOULD IT ATTACK US WITH ARMED
FORCES SUPERIOR TO OURS? THIS IS THE QUESTION
WE MUST ASK OURSELVES.

AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, WE ARE HOLDING CONSULTA-
TIONS REGARDING THE STRENGTH OF AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES
EVERY WEEK. SHOULD THERE BE ANY UNIT PERFORMING WORK WHICH
COULD BE DONE BY THAIS, THAT UNIT HAS TO BE WITHDRAWN. FOR
INSTANCE POST ENGINEER UNITS IN CHARGE OF ELECTRICITY, PIPE
WATER, UPKEEP OF CAMPS CAN BE REPLACED BY THAIS, SO THOSE
AMERICAN UNITS HAVE TO BE WITHDRAWN.
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